



## **Appendix 1**

**This appendix was part of the submitted manuscript and has been peer reviewed.  
It is posted as supplied by the authors.**

Appendix to: Parkinson L, Magin PJ, Thomson A, et al. Anticholinergic burden in older women: not seeing the wood for the trees? *Med J Aust* 2013; 198: 91-94. doi: 10.5694/mja14.00336.

**Appendix 1: Demographic and health characteristics of older women who completed ALSWH Survey 5, provided consent for medicines data linkage, had PBS concessional status between 2008 and 2010, according to anticholinergic medicines (AM) use.**

Characteristic	Non AM user (n=757)		AM user (n=1126)		P	
<b>Sociodemographic</b>						
age (mean [SD], yrs)	85.0	[1.4]	85.1	[1.4]	0.3	
education, ≥secondary (%)	35.6%		30.2%		0.02	*
married§ (%)	15.0%		8.8%		0.000	†
living alone (%)	75.7%		77.1%		0.5	
area of residence, urban (%)	43.3%		42.8%		0.8	
<b>Lifestyle</b>						
Current smoking (%)	3.4%		4.6%		0.2	
Any alcohol use (%)	65.3%		66.9%		0.5	
BMI (mean [SD])	24.4	[4.1]	25.0	[4.6]	0.01	*
<b>Comorbidity</b>						
osteoporosis (%)	21.3%		23.6%		0.3	
cancer§ (%)	3.2%		5.5%		0.02	*
mental health conditions§ (%)	5.2%		10.7%		0.000	†
asthma (%)	4.5%		8.4%		0.001	†
diabetes (%)	8.7%		9.9%		0.4	
cardiovascular disease§ (%)	9.7%		24.7%		0.000	†
arthritis (%)	20.6%		29.1%		0.000	†
Count of 7 conditions (mean [SD])	0.7	[0.8]	1.1	[1.0]	0.000	†
<b>SF-36 subscale scores (mean [SD])</b>						
physical functioning	62.2	[24.4]	48.2	[28.1]	0.000	†
role-physical	50.7	[41.6]	40.4	[40.1]	0.000	†
pain index	69.9	[25.5]	59.6	[26.5]	0.000	†
general health perception	70.3	[17.9]	62.8	[20.3]	0.000	†
Vitality	60.7	[18.9]	53.5	[20.8]	0.000	†
social functioning	84.8	[22.5]	74.2	[28.3]	0.000	†
role-emotional	78.1	[35.2]	72.7	[37.5]	0.001	†
mental health	83.0	[14.3]	79.3	[15.8]	0.000	†
<b>Number of semesters used AM</b>						
			(%)			
1	na		25.7%			
2	na		14.7%			
3	na		10.8%			
4	na		7.9%			
5	na		6.8%			
6	na		34.3%			

\* P ≤ 0.05; † P ≤ 0.001

§Married includes de facto relationships; Cancer excludes skin cancer; Mental health conditions were depression, anxiety and nervous disorders; Cardiovascular disease includes stroke, heart attack, and other heart disease; ALSWH= Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health; AM=anticholinergic medicines; BMI= body mass index; PBS= pharmaceutical benefits scheme; SD=standard deviation